

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL ROOM B2
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Weatherall called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following members present: P. Polonsky, L. Alexson, Fire Chief A. Theriault, K. Carlson, P. Dziadose, Police Chief P. Nikas, C. Surpitski, T. Jones, J. Fay, and J. Emerson.

CITIZEN QUERIES

Deputy Fire Chief Jeff French joined the meeting as an interested visitor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Charlie Surpitski moved, seconded by Paul Polonsky, to approve Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2017. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Surpitski, Nikas, Dziadose, Weatherall, Emerson.

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Peter Dziadose, to release Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2017. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Fay, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall.

Linda Alexson moved, seconded by Charlie, to approve Executive Session Minutes of April 23, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall. Abstaining: Jamie Fay.

Linda moved, seconded by Paul Nikas, to release Executive Session Minutes of April 23, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Fay, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall.

Charlie moved, seconded by Linda, to approve Executive Session Minutes of July 17, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall. Abstaining: Fay.

Linda moved, seconded by Keith Carlson, to release Executive Session Minutes of July 17, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Fay, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall.

Bob moved, seconded by Andy Theriault, to approve Executive Session Minutes of October 10, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Fay, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Jones, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall.

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Linda, to release Executive Session Minutes of October 10, 2019. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Nikas, Fay, Theriault, Carlson, Alexson, Surpitski, Jones, Polonsky, Dziadose, Emerson, Weatherall.

OPEN SESSION

Charlie moved, seconded by Tammy, to approve Open Session Minutes of January 14, 2020. UNANIMOUS.

Linda moved, seconded by Paul P., to approve Open Session Minutes of January 29, 2020. UNANIMOUS.

REFLECTION ON PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Bob and others reported that the forum held on January 29 at Our Lady of Hope church was successful and the overall feedback was a positive response. Some of the questions raised by attendees called attention to areas not previously discussed such as the communication towers.

FORUMS/ NEWSPAPER COVERAGE/TOURS

Bob and others suggested that the Committee meet with various groups around town in a forum atmosphere: AGN, Rotary, the Country Club, outer Linebrook at that fire station, Helenic Center, Little Neck, Yacht Club, Bialek Park group, Council on Aging, and Sisters of Notre Dame. On the idea of a “clock” for a timeline, Peter suggested a countdown for meetings with groups throughout the town, and Bob asked Charlie to draft a calendar so that there will be an order to the process. Peter suggested putting the questions from the church meeting on the website. Linda suggests that ICAM attend these outside forums. A second meeting at the church was suggested by Peter with conceptual drawings so that concerns can be addressed.

Jean reported meeting with the publisher of Ipswich Local News, John Muldoon, who had good suggestions for articles/pictures of everyday events and the inadequate facilities at Fire and Police headquarters and the timing for all of them.

Suggestions from members for publication during March -May were as follows:

1. An essay from the professionals at the police/fire stations citing problems at their place of work. Examples: an unruly person being escorted up the very difficult set of stairs at the Police Station; what it is like to drive the fire truck out into the street in heavy traffic.
2. Some experience from every public safety category (emergency management, harbor, shellfish, communication) should be relayed to the public.
3. Comparison of new facilities in other towns close to Ipswich relating to the size of their and our (proposed) building and number of personnel.
4. Information on the website relating to the bond which is coming off the High School in 2020.
5. A financial piece on the website from the Finance Director and how the new facility might affect property taxes.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Bob asked about the physical appearance of the new facility—what would the committee like? the community want? When does HKT need an answer? Jamie suggested some pictures from the architect which might be discussed. Bob felt that the new facility

should be a model for the town for future years. Solar possibilities (a new law) on a municipal building is possible.

Charlie Surpitski left at 8:30 p.m.

The narrow Pine Swamp Road was discussed. A little wider street or bump-outs for parking in front of the new facility and/or for handicap parking on the church side of the street was discussed.

NEXT MEETINGS

The group worked out the following dates for meetings:

March 10

April 14

May 5 – Committee report due for Town Meeting including a visual concept of the new facility

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Nikas moved, seconded by Paul, to adjourn at 9 p.m. UNANIMOUS.